4.   Geographic Shapefile Concepts Overview

The following sections describe the geographic entity type displayed in each shapefile, as well as the record layout for each file, in alphabetical order. A listing of all available shapefiles, including vintage and geographic level (state, county, and national), precedes the description of the entity type. Shapefiles do not exist for geographic layers where there is no data in the MTDB (e.g., states that have no American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Areas will not have an AIANNH10 or AIANNH20 shapefile).

4.1 American Indian / Alaska Native / Native Hawaiian (AIANNH) Areas

4.1.1 Alaska Native Regional Corporation (ANRC)

ANRC geography and attributes are available for Alaska in the following shapefiles:

Alaska Native Regional Corporation (ANRC) State-based Shapefile (2010)

Alaska Native Regional Corporation (ANRC) State-based Shapefile (2020)

ANRCs are corporations created according to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (P.L. 92–203, 85 Stat. 688 (1971); 43 U.S.C. 1602 et seq. (2000)). The laws of Alaska organize Regional Corporations to conduct both the for-profit and non-profit affairs of Alaska Natives within defined regions of the state. The Census Bureau treats ANRCs as legal geographic entities. Twelve ANRCs cover Alaska except for the area within the Annette Island Reserve (an American Indian Reservation (AIR) under the governmental authority of the Metlakatla Indian Community). The Census Bureau offers representatives of the twelve ANRCs the opportunity to review and update the ANRC boundaries. TIGER/Line Shapefiles represent ANRCs with a 5-character FIPS code unique within Alaska and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

See [Appendix F-1 for Alaska Native Regional Corporation Shapefile Record Layout (2010)](#).

See [Appendix F-2 for Alaska Native Regional Corporation Shapefile Record Layout (2020)](#).

4.1.2 AIANNH Areas

AIANNH area geography and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian (AIANNH) Area State-based Shapefile (2010)

American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian (AIANNH) Area State-based Shapefile (2020)

This shapefile contains both legal and statistical AIANNH entities for which the Census Bureau publishes data. The legal entities consist of federally recognized AIRs and Off-Reservation Trust Land (ORTL) areas, state-recognized AIRs, and Hawaiian Home Lands (HHLs). American Indian Tribal Subdivisions (AITS) and Alaska Native Regional Corporations (ANRCs) are additional types of legal entities, displayed in separate shapefiles discussed in this chapter. The statistical entities displayed in these shapefiles are Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSAs), Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas (OTSAs), Tribal Designated Statistical Areas (TDSAs), and State Designated Tribal Statistical Areas (SDTSAs).

The AIANNH area shapefiles contain a unique polygon record for each AIR or ORTL, HHL, ANVSA, and American Indian statistical geographic entity.

For example, the Fort Peck Indian Reservation will have two records: one for the reservation portion and another for the ORTL portion.

Entities with only a single component (e.g., HHL, ANVSA, American Indian statistical geographic entity, reservation without any associated ORTL, or an entity that is only ORTL), will contain a single record.

AIANNH areas cannot overlap another tribal entity. Tribal subdivisions are the exception, which subdivide some American Indian entities and ANVSAs that exist within ANRCs. In cases where more than one tribe claims jurisdiction over an area, the Census Bureau creates a joint-use area as a separate entity to define this area of dual claims.

4.1.2.1 Legal Entity Definitions

American Indian Reservations—Federal (federal AIRs)

Federal AIRs are areas set aside by the United States for the use of federally recognized tribes. The exterior boundaries of federal AIRs are in tribal treaties, agreements, executive orders, federal statutes, secretarial orders and/or judicial determinations. The Census Bureau recognizes federal reservations as territory over which American Indian tribes have governmental authority (e.g., colonies, communities, Indian colonies, Indian communities, Indian rancherias, Indian reservations, Indian villages, pueblos, rancherias, ranches, reservations, reserves, settlements, villages, or other descriptions). The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) within the U.S. Department of Interior regularly publishes a list of federally recognized tribal governments in the Federal Register. The Census Bureau contacts representatives of these federally recognized American Indian tribal governments to identify the boundaries for federal reservations. Federal reservations may cross state, county, county subdivision, and/or place boundaries.

Contact information for federally recognized tribes; please visit the BIA website at
<https://www.bia.gov/>

<https://www.usa.gov/tribes>

Census Bureau assigns each federal AIR and reservation equivalent joint-use area with a nationally unique 4-character census code (0001 to 4999). These census codes are in alphabetical order of AIR names nationwide, except that joint-use areas appear at the end of the code range (4900 to 4999). Federal AIRs and reservation equivalent joint-use areas also have a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

American Indian Reservations—State (state AIRs)

Some state governments establish state AIRs for tribes recognized by the state. A governor-appointed state liaison provides the names and boundaries for state-recognized AIRs to the Census Bureau. State reservations may cross county, county subdivision, and/or place boundaries.

Census Bureau assigns each state AIR with a nationally unique 4-character census code (9000 to 9499) and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

American Indian Trust Lands

American Indian Trust Lands are areas for which the United States holds title in trust for the benefit of a tribe (tribal trust land) or for an individual American Indian tribal member (individual trust land or allotment). Trust lands may be located on (on-reservation) or off an AIR (off-reservation). The Census Bureau recognizes and tabulates data for reservations and ORTLs because American Indian tribes have governmental authority over these lands. Tribal governmental authority generally applies to lands located off the reservation only when the lands are in trust status. In Census Bureau data tabulations, ORTLs are always associated with a specific federally recognized reservation and/or tribal government. A tribal

government appointed liaison provides the name and boundaries of their ORTLs. The Census Bureau does not identify on-reservation trust land, fee land (or land in fee simple status), or restricted fee lands as specific geographic categories and are not identified in the TIGER/Line Shapefiles.

Hawaiian Home Lands (HHLs)

HHLs are areas held in trust for Native Hawaiians by Hawaii (Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended). The Hawaii Admission Act (a compact between the federal government and Hawaii in 1959) vested land title and responsibility for the program with the state. An HHL is (not a governmental unit) a tract of land with a legally defined boundary that is owned by the state, which, as authorized by the Act, may lease to one or more Native Hawaiians for residential, agricultural, commercial, industrial, pastoral and/or any other activities authorized by state law. The Census Bureau obtains the names and boundaries for HHLs from State officials. The names of the HHLs are based on the traditional ahupua'a names of the Crown and government lands of the Kingdom of Hawaii from which the lands were designated or from the local name for an area.

HHLs are equivalent to ORTL areas with an AIANNH area trust land indicator coded as "T". Census Bureau assigns each HHL area with a nationally unique 4-character census code (5000 to 5499) in alphabetical sequence of each HHL name. Each HHL has a 5-character FIPS code in alphabetical order within Hawaii and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

Joint-Use Areas (Legal)

Joint-Use Areas (Legal) designate land administered jointly and/or claimed by two or more federally recognized American Indian tribes. The Census Bureau designates legal joint-use areas as unique geographic entities for presenting statistical data.

Census Bureau assigns each Joint-Use Area with a nationally unique 4-character census code (4800 to 4999) and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

4.1.2.2 Statistical Entity Definitions

Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSAs)

ANVSAs are a statistical geographic entity that represents the residences, permanent and/or seasonal, for Alaska Natives who are members of or are primarily receiving governmental services from the defining Alaska Native village (ANV) and that are located within the region and vicinity of the ANV's historic and/or traditional location. ANVSAs represent the relatively densely settled portion of each ANV and ideally include only an area where Alaska Natives, especially members of the defining ANV, represent a significant proportion of the population during one season of the year (three consecutive months). Officials of the ANV delineated or reviewed ANVSA boundaries. If no ANV official chose to participate in the delineation process, officials of the non-profit ANRC in which the ANV is located delineated or reviewed the boundaries. In some cases, if neither the ANV nor ANRC official chose to participate in the delineation process, the Census Bureau reviewed and delineated the ANVSA. An ANVSA may not overlap the boundary of another ANVSA or an AIR.

Census Bureau assigns each ANVSA with a nationally unique 4-character census code (6000 to 7999) based on the alphabetical sequence of each ANVSA's name and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

Joint-Use Areas (Statistical)

Joint-Use Areas (Statistical) designate land administered jointly and/or claimed by two or more American Indian tribes and only apply to overlapping OTSAs. The Census Bureau designates statistical joint-use areas as unique geographic entities for presenting statistical data. OTSA Joint-use areas have a nationally unique 4-character census code (5900 to 5999) and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas (OTSAs)

OTSAs are statistical entities identified and delineated by the Census Bureau in consultation with federally recognized American Indian tribes that formerly had a reservation in Oklahoma. The boundary of an OTSA is generally that of the former reservation in Oklahoma, except where modified by agreements with neighboring federally recognized tribes that are eligible to delineate an OTSA. Tribal subdivisions can exist within the statistical OTSAs. Census Bureau assigns each OTSA with a nationally unique 4-character census code (5500 to 5899) based on the alphabetical sequence of each OTSA's name and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

State Designated Tribal Statistical Areas (SDTSAs)

SDTSAs are statistical entities for state-recognized American Indian tribes that do not have a state-recognized reservation. State liaisons chosen by the governor's office in each state identify and delineate SDTSAs for the Census Bureau. SDTSAs are generally a compact and contiguous area that contains a concentration of people who identify with a state-recognized American Indian tribe and in which there is structured or organized tribal activity. An SDTSA may not be located in more than one state unless both states recognize the tribe and may not include area within any other AIANNH areas. Note that for Census 2000 these areas were termed State Designated American Indian Statistical Areas (SDAISAs); SDTSAs bring consistency to tribal statistical area terms.

Census Bureau assigns each SDTSA with a nationally unique 4-character census code (9500 to 9998) in alphabetical sequence of SDTSA names nationwide and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

Tribal Designated Statistical Areas (TDSAs)

TDSAs are statistical entities identified and delineated for the Census Bureau by federally recognized American Indian tribes that do not currently have a reservation or ORTL. A TDSA should be comparable to AIRs within the same state and/or region, especially for tribes that are of similar size. A TDSA is generally a compact and contiguous area that contains a concentration of individuals who identify with the delineating federally recognized American Indian tribe and in which there is structured or organized tribal activity. A TDSA may be located in more than one state but may not include area within any other AIANNH areas. Census Bureau assigns each TDSA with a nationally unique 4-character census code (8000 to 8999) in alphabetical sequence of TDSA names nationwide and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code.

The AIANNH Areas Codes are in the TIGER/Line Shapefiles with a 4-character census code field, and a single alphabetic character AIANNH area reservation/statistical area or ORTL indicator field, shown as Component Type (COMPTYP). The census codes are in alphabetical order in assigned ranges by AIANNH area type nationwide, except that joint-use areas appear at the end of their applicable code range. There is also a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code. ORTLs have the same code assigned as the associated reservation. ORTLs associated with tribes that do not have a reservation have codes

assigned based on their tribal name. There is one record created for each unique combination of AIANNH code and component type.

The type of AIANNH area can be identified either by census code (AIANNHCE), MAF/TIGER Feature Class Code (MTFCC), or FIPS class code (CLASSFP). The range of census codes allocated to each AIANNH area and the valid FIPS class code(s) associated with each are in the figure below.

Figure 5: Census Codes for each AIANNH area

Type	Census Code Range	Valid FIPS Class Codes	MTFCCs
Federal AIR or ORTL	0001 to 4899	D1, D2, D3	G2100
Federal AIR/ORTL joint-use area	4900 to 4999	D0	G2170
HHL	5000 to 5499	F1	G2120
OTSA	5500 to 5899	D6	G2140
OTSA joint-use area	5900 to 5999	D0	G2170
ANVSA	6000 to 7999	E1	G2130
TDSA	8000 to 8999	D6	G2160
State AIR	9000 to 9499	D4	G2100
SDTSA	9500 to 9998	D9	G2150

Notes:

- MTFCC G2100 can represent both federally and state-recognized areas:

Figure 6: AIANNHR Recognition Flag

Type	Federal/State Recognition Flag (AIANNHR)
Federally recognized	F
State recognized	S

- MTFCC G2170 are Joint-use areas:

Figure 7: Functional Status for G2170 joint- use areas

Type	Functional Status (FUNCSTAT)
Federally AIR/ORTL joint-use areas	A
OTSA joint-use areas	S

- FIPS Class Codes for Federal AIRs or ORTLs:

Figure 8: FIPS Class Codes for Federal AIRS or ORTLs

FIPS Class Codes	Description
D1	Legal federally recognized American Indian area consisting of reservation and associated ORTL.

D2	Legal federally recognized American Indian area consisting of reservation only.
D3	Legal federally recognized American Indian area consisting of ORTL only.

Figure 9: Component types for AIANNH areas

Type	Component Type (COMPTYP)
American Indian Trust Land	T
Reservation or Statistical Entity	R

See [Appendix F-3 AIANNH Area Shapefile (2010)](#) Record Layout.

See [Appendix F-4 AIANNH Area Shapefile (2020)](#) Record Layout.

4.1.3 American Indian Tribal Subdivisions

AITS geography and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

American Indian Tribal Subdivision (AITS) State-based Shapefile (2010)

American Indian Tribal Subdivision (AITS) State-based Shapefile (2020)

AITS are legally defined administrative subdivisions of federally recognized AIRs and/or ORTLs or OTSAs. Tribal subdivisions are known as additions, administrative areas, areas, chapters, county districts, districts, or segments. These entities are internal units of self-government or administration that serve social, cultural, and/or economic purposes for the American Indians on the reservations, ORTLs, or OTSAs. The Census Bureau obtains the boundary and name information for tribal subdivisions from the federally recognized tribal governments.

AITS codes are in the TIGER/Line Shapefiles with a 3-character census code and a nationally unique 8-character GNIS code. The Census Bureau assigns the 3-character AITS code alphabetically in order and uniquely within each AIR and/or associated ORTL or OTSA.

See [Appendix F-5 American Indian Tribal Subdivision Shapefile (2010)](#) Record Layout.

See [Appendix F-6 American Indian Tribal Subdivision Shapefile (2020)](#) Record Layout.

4.2 Blocks (Census Block)

Block geography and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

Block State-based Shapefile (2010)

Block State-based Shapefile (2020)

Block County-based Shapefile (2010)

Block County-based Shapefile (2020)

Census blocks are statistical areas bounded on all sides by visible features (e.g., streets, roads, streams, and railroad tracks), and by non-visible boundaries (e.g., city, town, township, and county limits, and short line-of-sight extensions of streets and roads). Generally, census blocks are small in area (e.g., a block in a city). Census blocks in suburban and rural areas may be large, irregular and bounded by a variety of features (e.g., roads, streams, and/or transmission line rights-of-way). In remote areas, census blocks may encompass hundreds of square miles. Census blocks cover all territory in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas. Blocks do not cross the boundaries of any entity for which the Census Bureau tabulates data. (See Figures 10 and 11).

Census Block Numbers—Census blocks are numbered uniquely within the boundaries of each state/county/census tract with a 4-character census block number. The first character of the tabulation block number identifies the block group. A block number can only be unique by using the decennial census state (STATEFP<YR>), county (COUNTYFP<YR>), census tract (TRACTCE<YR>), and block (BLOCKCE<YR>)+. There is no consistency in block numbers from census to census.

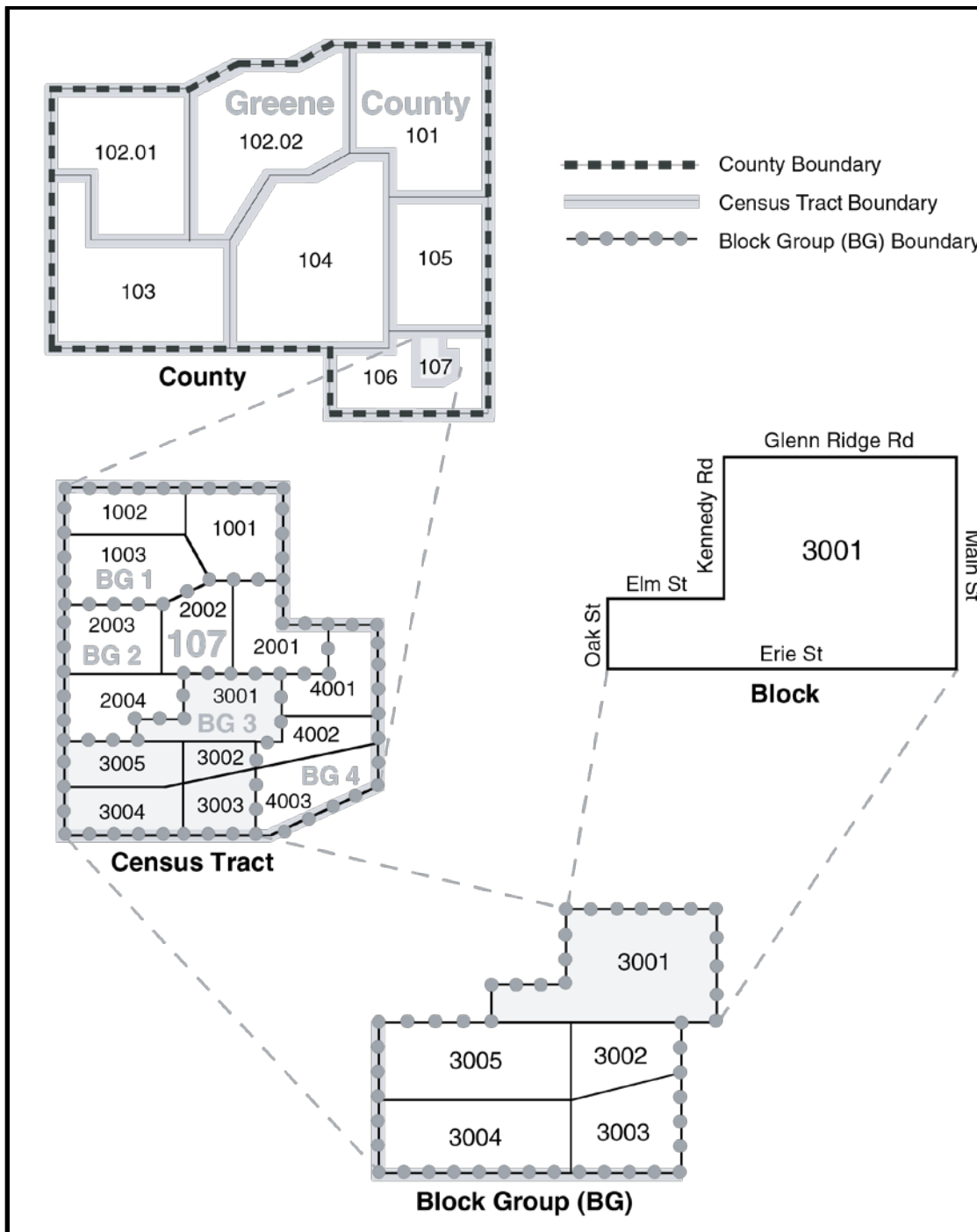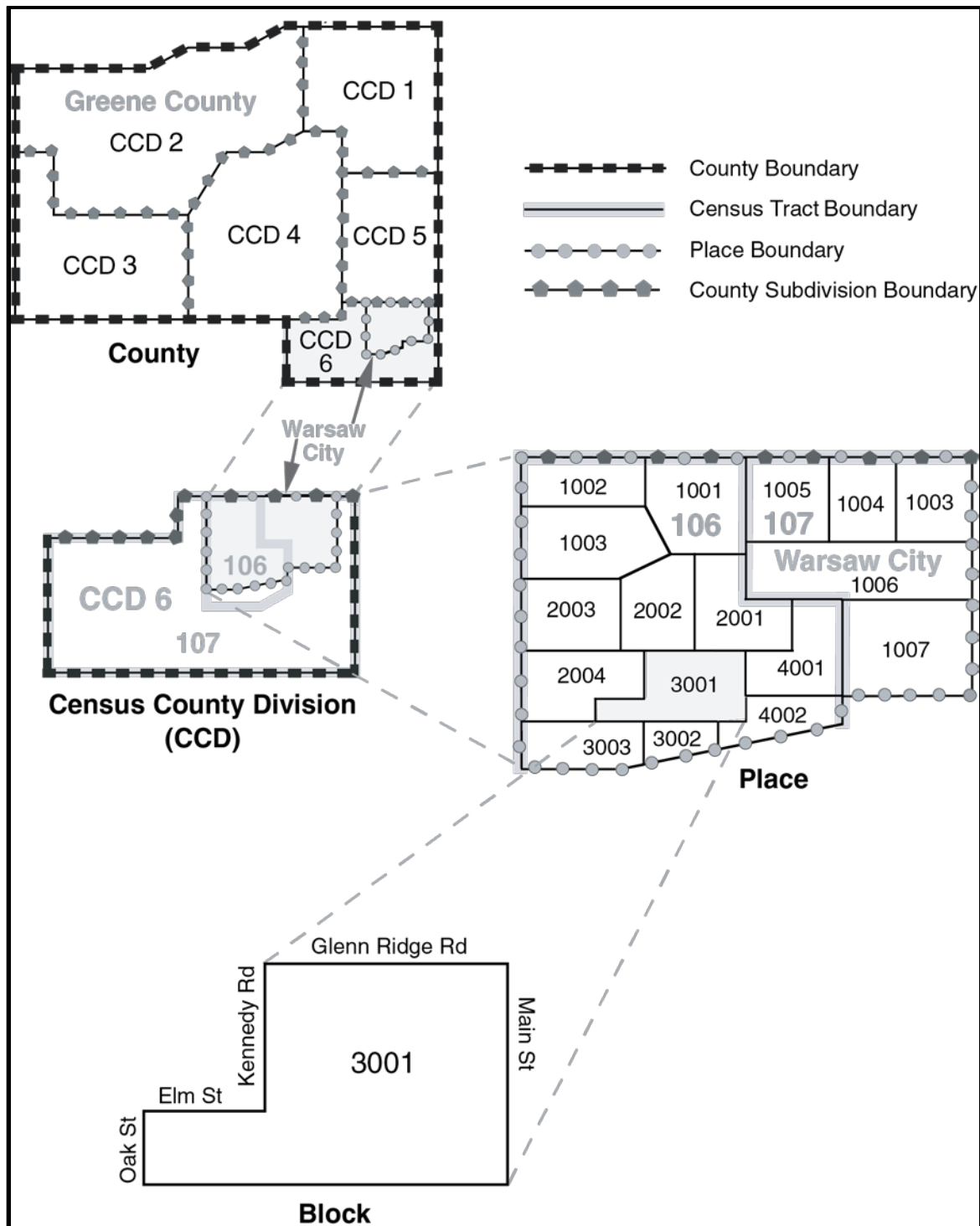**Figure 10: Geographic Relationships – Census Tract, Block Group, and Block**

Legend:
- County Boundary
- Census Tract Boundary
- Block Group (BG) Boundary

Greene County

102.01, 102.02, 101, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107

County

Census Tract 107: 1002, 1001, 1003, BG 1, 2002, 2003, 2001, BG 2, 107, 2004, 3001, 4001, BG 3, 4002, 3005, 3002, BG 4, 3004, 3003, 4003

Census Tract

Block Group (BG): 3001, 3005, 3002, 3004, 3003

Block Group (BG)

Block 3001: Glenn Ridge Rd, Kennedy Rd, Elm St, Oak St, Erie St, Main St

Block

Figure 11: Geographic Relationships - County Subdivision, Place, and Block

See Appendix G-1 Block Census Shapefile Record Layout (2010).

See Appendix G-2 Block Census Shapefile Record Layout (2020).

4.3 Block Groups

Block group geography and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

Block Group State-based Shapefile (2010)

Block Group State-based Shapefile (2020)

Block Group County-based Shapefile (2010)

Block Group County-based Shapefile (2020)

Standard block groups are clusters of blocks within the same census tract that have the same first digit of their 4-character census block number (e.g., Blocks 3001, 3002, 3003 to 3999 in census tract 1210.02 belong to block group 3). Current block groups do not always maintain these same block number to block group relationships due to boundary and feature changes that occur throughout the decade. For example, block 3001 might move due to a change in the census tract boundary. Even if the block is no longer in block group 3, the block number 3001 will not change. The GEOID for that block, identifying block group 3, would remain the same in the attribute information in the TIGER/Line Shapefiles because block GEOIDs are always built using the decennial geographic codes.

Block groups delineated for 2010 and 2020 generally contain between 600 and 3,000 people. Local participants delineated most block groups as part of the Census Bureau's Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP). The Census Bureau delineated block groups only where a local or tribal government declined to participate or where the Census Bureau could not identify a potential local participant.

A block group usually covers a contiguous area. Each census tract contains one or more block groups and block groups have unique numbers within census tract. Within the standard census geographic hierarchy, block groups never cross county or census tract boundaries, but may cross the boundaries of county subdivisions, places, urban areas, voting districts, congressional districts, and AIANNH areas.

Block groups have a valid range of zero (0) through nine (9). Block groups beginning with a zero generally are in coastal and Great Lakes water and territorial seas. Rather than extending a census tract boundary into the Great Lakes or out to the 3-mile territorial sea limit, the Census Bureau delineated some census tract boundaries along the shoreline or just offshore.

For more information about the PSAP, please visit:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/psap.html>

See Appendix G-3 Block Group Shapefile Record Layout (2010).

See Appendix G-4 Block Group Shapefile Record Layout (2020).

4.4 Census Tracts

Census tract geography and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

Census Tract State-based Shapefile (2010)

Census Tract State-based Shapefile (2020)

Census Tract County-based Shapefile (2010)

Census Tract County-based Shapefile (2020)

Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county or equivalent entity, and are reviewed and updated by local participants prior to each decennial census as part of the Census Bureau's PSAP. The Census Bureau updates census tracts in situations where no local participant existed or where local or tribal governments declined to participate. The primary purpose of census tracts is to provide a stable set of geographic units for the presentation of decennial census data.

Census tracts generally have a population size of 1,200 to 8,000 people with an optimum size of 4,000 people. The spatial size of census tracts varies widely depending on the density of settlement. Ideally, census tract boundaries remain stable over time to facilitate statistical comparisons from census to census. However, physical changes in street patterns caused by highway construction, new development, and so forth, may require boundary revisions. In addition, significant changes in population may result in splitting or combining census tracts.

Census tract boundaries generally follow visible and identifiable features. Census tract boundaries may follow legal boundaries (e.g., minor civil division (MCD) or incorporated place boundaries in some states to allow for census tract-to-governmental unit relationships where the governmental boundaries tend to remain unchanged between censuses). State and county boundaries always are census tract boundaries in the standard census geographic hierarchy.

In a few rare instances, a census tract may consist of noncontiguous areas. These noncontiguous areas may occur where the census tracts are coextensive with all or parts of legal entities that are themselves noncontiguous.

Census Tract Codes and Numbers—Census tract numbers have up to a 4-character basic number and may have an optional 2-character suffix.

For example:

1457.02.

The census tract numbers (used as names) eliminate any leading zeroes and append a suffix only if required. The 6-digit census tract codes, however, include leading zeroes and have an implied decimal point for the suffix. Census tract codes (000100 to 998999) are unique within a county or equivalent area.

The Census Bureau assigned a census tract code of 9900 to represent census tracts delineated to cover large bodies of water. In addition, census tract codes in the 9400s represent American Indian Areas and codes in the 9800s represent special land use areas.

The Census Bureau uses suffixes to help identify census tract changes for comparison purposes. Local participants have an opportunity to review the existing census tracts before each census. If local

participants split a census tract, the split parts usually retain the basic number, but receive different suffixes. In a few counties, local participants request major changes to, and renumbering of, the census tracts. Changes to individual census tract boundaries usually do not result in census tract numbering changes.

Relationship to Other Geographic Entities—Within the standard census geographic hierarchy, census tracts never cross state or county boundaries, but may cross the boundaries of county subdivisions, places, urban areas, voting districts, congressional districts, and AIANNH areas.

Census Tract Numbers and Codes:

- 000100 to 989900—Basic number range for census tracts
- 990000 to 990099—Basic number for census tracts in water areas
- 990100 to 998900—Basic number range for census tracts

See Appendix G-5 Census Tract Shapefiles Record Layout (2010).

See Appendix G-6 Census Tract Shapefiles Record Layout (2020).

4.5 Congressional Districts

Congressional district geography and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

> 113th Congressional District State-based Shapefile

> 116th Congressional District State-based Shapefile

Congressional districts are the 435 areas from which people are elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and the five areas with nonvoting delegates from state equivalents. After the apportionment of congressional seats among the states based on decennial census population counts, each state is responsible for establishing the boundaries of congressional districts. All congressional districts in a state should be as equal in population as is practicable.

The 2020 Census Redistricting Data (P.L. 94-171) TIGER/Line Shapefiles contain the 113th and 116th Congressional Districts. Shapefiles for the 113th Congressional Districts reflect redistricting after the 2010 Census and were in effect from January 2013 to 2015. Shapefiles for the 116th Congress reflect the information provided to the Census Bureau by the states by May 1, 2018. The 116th Congressional District shapefile contains the areas in effect from January 2019 to 2021.

Each state has a minimum of one representative in the U.S. House of Representatives. The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have a non-voting delegate in the Congress.

Congressional District Codes—Congressional districts are identified by a 2-character numeric FIPS code. Congressional districts are numbered uniquely within state. The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Island Areas have the code of 98, which identifies their status with respect to representation in Congress:

- 01 to 53—Congressional district codes
- 00—At large (single district for state)
- 98—Nonvoting delegate

Other Notes on Congressional Districts

- Maryland adjusted the 2010 Census P.L. 94-171 redistricting data by reallocating state prisoner populations to their last known residence. Information on this adjustment called "No Representation Without Population Act" is available by visiting < https://www.ncsl.org/documents/legismgt/Davis_prison_presentation.pdf>
- Hawaii adjusted the 2010 Census P.L. 94-171 redistricting data to remove non-resident military personnel and non-resident students. Information on this adjustment is available at <http://www.hawaiireporter.com/federal-district-court-panel-rules-hawaii-can-exclude-military-students-from-reapportionment-plan-plaintiffs-will-appeal-to-u-s-supreme-court/>

    <http://redistricting.lls.edu/states-HI.php>

See Appendix H-1 113th Congressional District Shapefile Record Layout.

See Appendix H-2 116th Congressional District Shapefile Record Layout.

4.6 Consolidated Cities

Consolidated city geography and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

Consolidated City State-based Shapefile (2010)

Consolidated City State-based Shapefile (2020)

A consolidated government is a unit of local government for which the functions of an incorporated place and its county or MCD have merged. This action results in both the primary incorporated place and the county or MCD continuing to exist as legal entities, even though the county or MCD performs few or no governmental functions and has few or no elected officials. When one or more other incorporated places in the county or MCD is included in the consolidated government but continues to function as separate government, the primary incorporated place is referred to as a consolidated city. The Census Bureau classifies the separately incorporated places within the consolidated city as place entities and creates a separate place (balance) record for the portion of the consolidated city not within any other place. The shapefiles represent consolidated cities with a 5- character numeric FIPS code and an 8-character National Standard (GNIS) code. Consolidated City (Balance) Portions refer to the areas of a consolidated city not included in another separately incorporated place.

For example,

Butte-Silver Bow, MT, is a consolidated city (former Butte city and Silver Bow County) that includes the separately incorporated municipality of Walkerville city. The area of the consolidated city that is not in Walkerville city is assigned to Butte-Silver Bow (balance). The name always includes the "(balance)" identifier. Balance portions of consolidated cities are included in the Incorporated Place shapefiles.

See Appendix I-1 Consolidate City Shapefile Record Layout (2010).

See Appendix I-2 Consolidate City Shapefile Record Layout (2020).

4.7 Counties and Equivalent Entities

County and equivalent entity geography and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

County and Equivalent Entity State-based Shapefile (2010)

County and Equivalent Entity State-based Shapefile (2020)

Counties and equivalent entities are primary legal divisions of states. In most states, these entities are termed counties. Alaska and the Census Bureau cooperatively delineate these census areas for statistical purposes. In four states (Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia), there are one or more incorporated places that are independent of any county organization and thus constitute primary divisions of their states. These incorporated places are also known as independent cities. The Census Bureau treats the following entities as equivalents of counties for purposes of data presentation:

Figure 12: County Equivalents

Place	Entity
Alaska	Organized Borough
Alaska (census areas)	Unorganized Borough
District of Columbia	-
Louisiana	Parishes
Maryland	Independent Cities
Missouri	Independent Cities
Nevada	Independent Cities
Virginia	Independent Cities
Puerto Rico	Municipios
American Samoa	Districts and Islands
Guam	-
Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands	Municipalities
U.S. Virgin Islands	Islands

Each county or statistically equivalent entity has a 3-character FIPS code that is unique within a state, and an 8-character GNIS code.

The 2020 county shapefiles reflect available governmental unit boundaries of the counties and equivalent entities as of January 1, 2020.

Core-based Statistical Area (CBSA) Codes

CBSA Codes – The county and equivalent entity shapefiles also contain fields with codes for combined statistical area, metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area, and metropolitan division. Counties form the building blocks for CBSAs, and a user can merge county records to form these areas without having to acquire the individual CBSA shapefiles.

See Appendix J-1 County and Equivalent Entity Shapefile Record Layout (2010).

See Appendix J-2 County and Equivalent Entity Shapefile Record Layout (2020).

4.8 County Subdivisions

County subdivision geography and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

> County Subdivision State-based Shapefile (2010)
>
> County Subdivision State-based Shapefile (2020)
>
> County Subdivision County-based Shapefile (2010)
>
> County Subdivision County-based Shapefile (2020)

County subdivisions are the primary divisions of counties and their equivalent entities for the reporting of decennial census data. They may represent legal or statistical entities. The shapefiles contain a 5-character FIPS code field for county subdivisions and an 8-character GNIS code.

Legal Entity Definition

Minor Civil Divisions (MCDs)

MCDs are the primary governmental or administrative divisions of a county in many states. MCDs represent many kinds of legal entities with a wide variety of governmental and/or administrative functions. MCDs areas include:

Figure 13: MCD areas

American Indian Reservations	Assessment districts	Barrios	Barrios-pueblo	Boroughs
Census subdistricts	Charter townships	Commissioner districts	Counties	Election districts
Election precincts	Gores	Grants	Locations	Magisterial districts
Parish governing authority districts	Plantations	Precincts	Purchases	Supervisor's districts
Towns	Townships			

The Census Bureau recognizes MCDs in 29 states, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas. The District of Columbia has no primary divisions, and the Census Bureau treats the incorporated place of Washington as an MCD equivalent for statistical purposes. In 23 states, all or some incorporated places are not part of any MCD. These places also serve as primary legal county subdivisions and have a FIPS MCD code that is the same as the FIPS place code. The GNIS codes also match for those entities. In other states, incorporated places are part of the MCDs where located or the pattern is mixed—some incorporated places are independent of MCDs and others are included within one or more MCDs. The MCDs in 12 states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin) also serve as general-purpose local governments that generally can perform the same governmental functions as incorporated places. The Census Bureau presents data for these MCDs in all products that contain place data.

In New York and Maine, AIRs exist outside the jurisdiction of any town (MCD) and thus serve as the equivalent of MCDs for purposes of data presentation.

<u>Statistical Entity Definitions</u>

Census County Divisions (CCDs)

CCDs are areas delineated by the Census Bureau in cooperation with state and local officials for statistical purposes. CCDs are non-governmental units and have no legal functions. CCD boundaries usually follow visible features and, in most cases, coincide with census tract boundaries. The Census Bureau gives each CCD a name based on a place, county, or well-known local name to identify its location. CCDs exist where:

- There are not legally established MCDs
- The legally established MCDs do not have governmental or administrative purposes
- The boundaries of the MCDs change frequently
- The MCDs are not generally known to the public

The Census Bureau has established CCDs for the following 20 states:

Figure 14: Census County Divisions

Alabama	Arizona	California	Colorado	Delaware
Florida	Georgia	Hawaii	Idaho	Kentucky
Montana	Nevada	New Mexico	Oklahoma	Oregon
South Carolina	Texas	Utah	Washington	Wyoming

Census Subareas

Census subareas are statistical subdivisions of boroughs, city and boroughs, municipalities, and census areas. Census areas are the statistical equivalent entities for counties in Alaska. Alaska and the Census Bureau cooperatively delineate the census subareas to serve as the statistical equivalents of MCDs.

Unorganized Territories (UTs)

UTs are defined by the Census Bureau in nine MCD states and in American Samoa, where portions of counties or equivalent entities are not included in any legally established MCD or incorporated place. The Census Bureau recognizes such separate pieces of territory as one or more separate county subdivisions for census purposes. Each UT is given a descriptive name, followed by the designation "unorganized territory" and county subdivision FIPS and GNIS codes. The Census Bureau recognizes UTs in the following states and equivalent areas:

Figure 15: Unorganized Territories

Arkansas	Indiana	Iowa	Maine	Minnesota
New York	North Carolina	North Dakota	South Dakota	

Undefined County Subdivisions

In water bodies, primarily Great Lakes waters and territorial sea, legal county subdivisions do not extend to cover the entire county. For these areas, the Census Bureau created a county subdivision with a FIPS code of 00000 and GNIS code of 00000000 named "county subdivision not defined." The following states and equivalent areas have these undefined county subdivisions:

Figure 16: Undefined County Subdivisions

Connecticut	Illinois	Indiana	Maine	Massachusetts
Michigan	Minnesota	New Hampshire	New Jersey	New York

| | Ohio | Pennsylvania | Rhode Island | Wisconsin | Puerto Rico |

New England City and Town Area (NECTA) Codes

The county subdivision shapefiles contain fields with codes for Combined New England City and Town area, New England city and town area, and New England city and town area division. The NECTAs consist of county subdivisions in New England only and users can merge county subdivision records to form these areas without acquiring the individual NECTA shapefiles.

See [Appendix K-1 County Subdivision Shapefile Record Layout (2010)](#).

See [Appendix K-2 County Subdivision Shapefile Record Layout (2020)](#).

4.9 Hydrography (Area and Linear)

Hydrography features and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

> Area Hydrography County-based Shapefile (Current)
> Linear Hydrography County-based Shapefile (Current)

The area hydrography shapefile contains the geometry and attributes of both perennial and intermittent area hydrography features, including ponds, lakes, oceans, swamps, glaciers, and the area covered by large streams represented as double-line drainage. Single-line drainage water features exist in the all lines shapefile and the linear hydrography shapefile.

The linear hydrography shapefile contains all linear features with hydrography (H) type MTFCCs in the MTDB by county. The Census Bureau provides these shapefiles at a county geographic extent and in linear elemental feature geometry. The linear hydrography shapefile includes streams/rivers, braided streams, canals, ditches, artificial paths, and aqueducts. A linear hydrography feature may include edges with both perennial and intermittent persistence.

Single-line drainage water features include artificial path features that run through double-line drainage features (e.g., rivers and streams and serve as a linear representation of these features). The artificial path features may correspond to those in the USGS National Hydrographic Dataset (NHD). However, in many cases the features do not match NHD equivalent feature and will not carry the NHD metadata codes.

Shorelines for area hydrography exist in the all lines shapefiles and have MTFCCs of either P0002 (shoreline of perennial water feature) or P0003 (shoreline of intermittent water feature).

See [Appendix L-1 Area Hydrography Shapefile Record Layout (current)](#).

See [Appendix L-2 Linear Hydrography Shapefile Record Layout (current)](#).

4.10 Landmarks (Area and Point)

Landmark features and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

> Area Landmark County-based Shapefile (Current)
> Point Landmark County-based Shapefile (Current)

The Census Bureau includes landmarks in the MTDB to locate special features and help enumerators during field operations. Some of the more common landmark types include area landmarks (e.g., airports, cemeteries, parks, and educational facilities) and point landmarks (e.g., schools and churches).

The Census Bureau adds landmark features to the database on an as-needed basis and makes no attempt to ensure that all instances of a feature were included. The landmarks were not used to build or maintain the 2020 Census address list, and the absence of a landmark (e.g., hospital or prison) does not mean that associated living quarters were excluded from the 2020 Census enumeration.

Area landmark and area water features can overlap. For example, a park or other special land-use feature may include a lake or pond. In this case, the polygon covered by the lake or pond belongs to a water feature and a park landmark feature. Other kinds of landmarks can overlap as well. Area landmarks can contain point landmarks, but TIGER/Line Shapefiles do not contain links to these features.

All landmarks have a MTFCC that identifies the type of feature and may or may not have a specific feature name. A full MTFCC list with definitions for the shapefiles is provided in Appendix E. Each landmark has a unique area landmark identifier (AREAID) or point landmark identifier (POINTID) value.

See Appendix M-1 Area Landmark Shapefile Record Layout (Current).

See Appendix M-2 Point Landmark Shapefile Record Layout (Current).

4.11 Linear Features

Linear elemental features are the spatial representation of 1-dimensional roads, hydrography, railroads, and other miscellaneous features in the MTDB. A linear elemental feature can span one edge or multiple connecting edges that share a common name and feature classification (MTFCC).

More than one linear elemental feature can share the same edge or group of connected edges. For example, an edge may be associated with a linear feature called Oak Street. This same edge may be one of several edges also associated with another linear feature called State Highway 57. The edge in question has two names: Oak Street and State Highway 57. The Census Bureau designates one of these names as primary (usually the common street name [Oak Street]) and the others as alternates.

The MTDB breaks/ends linear elemental features when the feature name changes. All spelling differences result in a new feature. Features will also break at county boundaries, changes in primary/alternate designation, MTFCC, and gaps in the geometry.

4.11.1 All Lines

Each all lines shapefile describes the universe of edges that bound or are included within a county or equivalent entity. The shapefile describes the geometry of each edge along with descriptive attributes and unique identification numbers. These identification numbers provide the means for linking the edges to alternate features (e.g., their names, address ranges, and adjacent faces).

The all lines features and attributes are in the following shapefile:

> All Lines County-based Shapefile (Current)

The all lines shapefile contains visible linear feature edges (e.g., roads, railroads, and hydrography, as well as non-feature edges and non-visible boundaries). Additional attribute data associated with the edges are available in relationship files that users must download separately.

The all lines shapefile contains the geometry and attributes of each topological primitive edge. Each edge has a unique permanent edge ID (TLID) value. An edge's left and right faces are identified by the TFIDL (permanent faces identifier on the left side of the edge) and TFIDR (permanent faces identifier on the right side of the edge) attributes, which link to the TFID attribute in the Topological Faces shapefile.

The left and right side of an edge is determined by the order of the points that form the edge. An edge is oriented from the start node to the end node. If a person stands on an edge at the start node and faces the end node, data listed in the fields carrying a right qualifier to the right of the edge. Users can employ GIS software to plot the edges as directional vectors with arrows showing the orientation of edges.

In the MTDB, edges may represent several types of features. The series of feature indicator flags (Hydrography [HYDROFLG], Road [ROADFLG], Rail [RAILFLG], and Other Linear [OLFFLG]) indicate the classes of features that share the edge. For example, a road may have embedded railroad tracks; the corresponding edge will have both the ROADFLG and RAILFLG set. Generally, certain feature types appear together on the same edge:

Figure 17: Feature Types

Feature Type	Description
Road and Rail	Roads with adjacent tracks, tracks embedded in roadways or tracks located in the median
Rail and Other Linear Feature	Rail features located on dams and levees
Road and Other Linear Feature	Road features located on dams and levees

The MTFCC identifies the specific code for the primary feature on the edge. For edges that represent roads in combination with other features, the MTFCC in the all lines shapefile will reflect the road feature.

See Appendix N-1 All Lines Shapefile Record Layout (Current).

4.11.2 Roads

Linear road features and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

> Primary and Secondary Roads State-based Shapefile (Current)
> All Roads County-based Shapefile (Current)

The primary and secondary roads shapefile contains all linear street features with MTFCCs of primary roads (S1100) or secondary roads (S1200) in the MTDB. Primary roads are generally divided limited-access highways within the federal interstate highway system or under state management. Interchanges and ramps distinguish these roads, and some are toll highways. Secondary roads are main arteries, usually in the U.S. highway, state highway, or county highway system. These roads have one or more lanes of traffic in each direction, may or may not be divided, and usually have at-grade intersections with many other roads and driveways. These roads often have both a local name and a route number.

The all roads shapefile contains all linear street features with "S" (Street) type MTFCCs in the MTDB (e.g., primary roads, secondary roads, local neighborhood roads, rural roads, city streets, vehicular trails [4WD], ramps, service drives, walkways, stairways, alleys, and private roads).

The Census Bureau works continuously to improve the accuracy of the features in the MTDB. However, some street features may have a misclassified MTFCC. There can be gaps in features in the primary roads or the primary and secondary roads shapefiles, if a segment of the feature was misclassified as a local neighborhood road, rural road, or city street (S1400) instead of a primary road (S1100) or secondary road (S1200).

The all roads shapefile will contain multiple overlapping road segments where a segment is associated with more than one road feature. For example, if a road segment is associated with US Route 36 and State Highway 7 and 28th Street, the all roads shapefile will contain three spatially coincident segments, each with a different name. The all lines shapefile contains the set of unique road segments for each county, along with other linear features. Note: that the Linear Feature Address Range Identifier (LINEARID) field can link the linear features back to the featnames table. From there the TLID can relate the feature back to the all lines shapefile.

See Appendix N-2 Primary and Secondary Roads Shapefile Record Layout (Current).

See Appendix N-3 All Roads Shapefile Record Layout (Current).

4.12 Places

Place geography and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

> Place State-based Shapefile (2010)

> Place State-based Shapefile (2020)

The 2020 Census Redistricting Data (P.L. 94-171) TIGER/Line Shapefiles include both incorporated places (legal entities) and census designated places (statistical entities).

Incorporated Places

Incorporated places are those reported to the Census Bureau as legally in existence as of January 1, 2020, under the laws of their respective states. An incorporated place (e.g., city, town, village, or borough, but can have other legal descriptions) provides governmental functions for a concentration of people. Incorporated places may extend across county and county subdivision boundaries, but never across state boundaries.

Census Designated Places (CDPs)

CDPs are the statistical counterparts of incorporated places. CDPs are settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name but not legally incorporated under the laws of the state in which the CDPs are located. The Census Bureau defines CDP boundaries in cooperation with tribal and local partners as part of the PSAP. CDP boundaries usually coincide with visible features or the boundary of an adjacent incorporated place or another legal entity boundary. CDPs have no legal status and do not have officials elected to serve traditional municipal functions. CDP boundaries may change from one decennial census to the next with changes in the settlement pattern; a CDP with the same name as in an earlier census does not necessarily have the same boundary. There are no population size requirements for CDPs. In the nine states of the Northeast (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont) as well as Michigan, Minnesota, and

Wisconsin, a CDP may represent a densely settled concentration of population within a town or township; in other instances, a CDP represents an entire town or township.

All places shown in data products for Hawaii are CDPs. The Census Bureau (in an agreement with Hawaii) does not show data separately for the city of Honolulu (coextensive with Honolulu County). Puerto Rico only has CDPs, which are comunidades or zonas urbanas. Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands also have only CDPs.

Place Codes

Place Codes—the FIPS place code uniquely identifies a place within a state. If place names are duplicated within a state and represent distinctly different areas, a separate code is assigned to each place name alphabetically by the primary county in which each place is located, or, if both places are in the same county, alphabetically by their legal descriptions (e.g., city before village). All places also have an 8-character GNIS code.

Dependent and Independent Places

Dependent and Independent Places—Depending on the state, incorporated places are either dependent within, or independent of, county subdivisions. Some states contain a mixture of dependent and independent incorporated places. Dependent places are part of the county subdivision; the county subdivision code of the place is the same as that of the underlying county subdivision(s) but is different from the FIPS place code. Independent places are not part of any MCD and serve as primary county subdivisions. The independent place FIPS code usually is the same as that used for the MCD for the place. The only exception is if the place is independent of the MCDs in a state in which the FIPS MCD codes are in the 90000 range. (The FIPS code range 90000 to 98999 is reserved for CCDs and nonfunctioning MCDs where they cover whole States, whole counties, or their statistically equivalent entities). Then, the FIPS MCD and FIPS place codes will differ. CDPs are always dependent within county subdivisions and all places are dependent within statistical county subdivisions.

Independent Cities

Table 3: Independent Cities

Independent Cities are not part of any surrounding county:
Baltimore city, Maryland
St. Louis city, Missouri
Carson City, Nevada
All cities in Virginia (38)

The Census Bureau treats these independent cities as equivalent to both counties and MCDs (in MCD states). The FIPS code for St. Louis city is the same as the FIPS county subdivision code. All the others have differing FIPS place and county subdivision codes. At the county level, independent cities have a 3-character county code of 500 or higher.
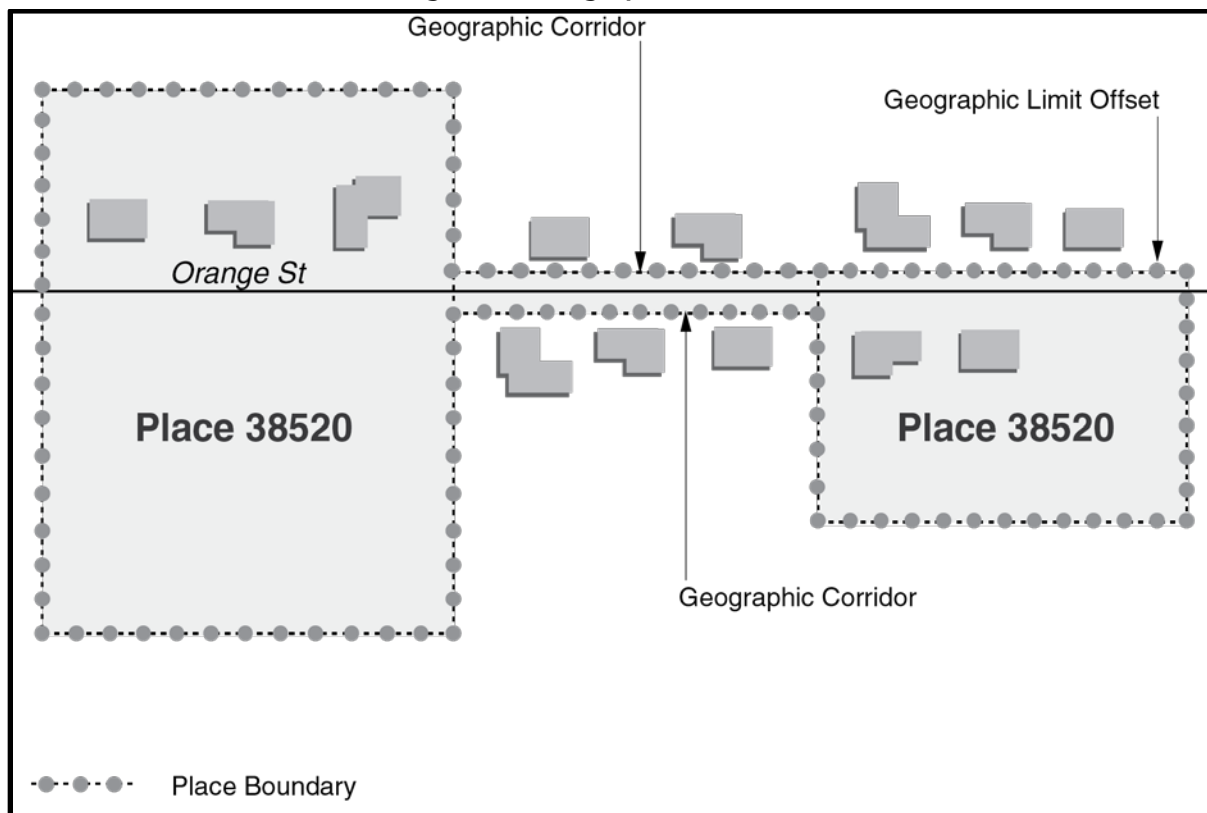
Geographic Corridors

A geographic corridor (formerly called corporate corridor) is a narrow, linear part of an incorporated place (or in a very few instances, another type of legal entity). The geographic corridor includes the street and/or right-of-way or a portion of the street and/or right-of-way within the incorporated place. Geographic

corridors do not include structures from the incorporated place (e.g., houses, apartments, or businesses that front along the street or road).

Geographic Limit Offset Boundary

A geographic limit offset boundary (formerly called corporate limit offset boundary) exists where the incorporated place lies on only one side of the street and may include all or part of the street and/or the right-of-way. The geographic limit offset boundary does not include the houses or land that adjoins the side of the street with the geographic limit offset boundary. Two or more geographic limit offset boundaries can be on the same street or right-of-way. Geographic limit offset boundaries use the same map symbology as non-offset boundaries. Figures 18 and 19 depict geographic corridors and geographic offset limits.

Figure 18: Geographic corridors - Overview

This diagram (Figure 18), using symbology typical of a census map, shows a geographic corridor linking the two larger areas of Place 38520. Shading highlights the actual area within the corporate limits. Part of the geographic limit along Orange St. is an offset boundary. A geographic limit offset covers only one side of the street or right-of-way, not the entire street or right-of-way, as is the case with a geographic corridor.

Figure 19: Geographic Corridors Address Ranges
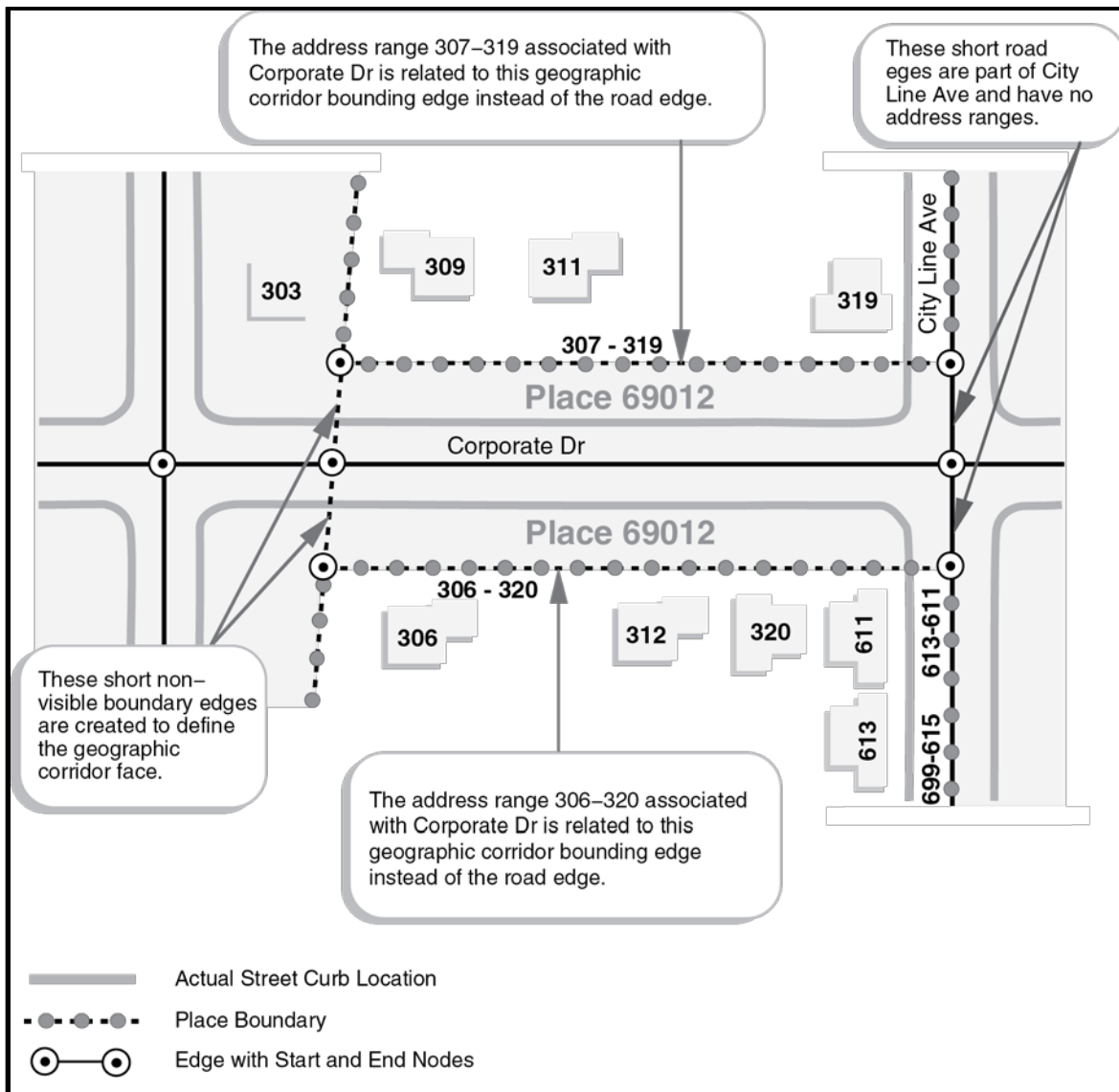
This diagram (Figure 19) shows the address ranges associated with a geographic corridor that runs along Corporate Dr. In order to correctly geocode structures outside the geographic corridor in the correct block and place, the address ranges associated with Corporate Dr. are located on and related to the geographic corridor bounding edge instead of the road edge. For example, 311 Corporate Dr. is located outside the geographic limits. Using address ranges on the road edge for Corporate Dr. will incorrectly geocode the structure to Place 69012. Assigning the address ranges to the geographic corridor edge alongside Corporate Dr. will correctly geocode the structure to the block outside of Place 69012. Note that the geographic corridor edge splits City Line Ave. road edge at one end of the corridor. In this case, the road edge outside of the geographic corridor is the address range and the road edge for City Line Ave. inside the corridor does not have address ranges.

The all lines shapefile and address ranges relationship file TLID relate geographic corridor address ranges to the corridor bounding edge adjacent to the road edge. The address range-feature name relationship file relates street names to address ranges on geographic corridor bounding edges. By assigning the address range to the geographic corridor edge rather than the road edge, structures will geocode correctly outside of the geographic corridor.

Consolidated city (Balance) portions refer to the areas of a consolidated city not included in another separately incorporated place. For example, Butte-Silver Bow, MT, is a consolidated city (former Butte city and Silver Bow County) that includes the separately incorporated municipality of Walkerville city. The area of the consolidated city that is not in Walkerville city is assigned to Butte-Silver Bow (balance). The name always includes the "(balance)" identifier. Balance portions of consolidated cities are included in the place shapefiles.

See [Appendix O-1 Place Shapefile Record Layout (2010)](#).

See [Appendix O-2 Place Shapefile Record Layout (2020)](#).

4.13 School Districts (Elementary, Secondary, and Unified)

School district geography and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

Elementary School District State-based Shapefile (2010)
Elementary School District State-based Shapefile (2020)

Secondary School District State-based Shapefile (2010)
Secondary School District State-based Shapefile (2020)

Unified School District State-based Shapefile (2010)
Unified School District State-based Shapefile (2020)

The Census Bureau obtains school district boundaries, names, local education agency codes, grade ranges, and school district levels annually from state education officials. The Census Bureau collects this information for the primary purpose of providing the U.S. Department of Education with annual estimates of the number of children aged 5 through 17 in families in poverty within each school district, county, and state. This information serves as the basis for the Department of Education to determine the annual allocation of Title I funding to states and school districts.

The 2020 Census Redistricting Data (P.L. 94-171) TIGER/Line Shapefiles include separate shapefiles for elementary, secondary, and unified school districts and contain information from the 2010 school year (i.e., districts in operation as of January 1, 2010) and the 2020 school year (i.e. districts in operation as of January 1, 2020).

Unified school districts provide education to children of all school ages. In general, if there is a unified school district, no elementary or secondary school district exists (see exceptions described below). If there is an elementary school district, the secondary school district may or may not exist (see explanation below). In addition to regular functioning school districts, the TIGER/Line Shapefiles contain pseudo-school districts as described below.

The Census Bureau categorizes school districts based on the grade ranges for which the school district is financially responsible. These may or may not be the same as the grade ranges that a school district

operates. (The grade range that reflects financial responsibility is important for the allocation of Title I funds.) A typical example would be a school district that operates schools for children in grades Kindergarten (KG)-8 and pays a neighboring school district to educate children in grades 9–12. The first school district is operationally responsible for grades KG-8, but financially responsible for grades KG-12. Therefore, the Census Bureau would define the grade range for that school district as KG-12. If an elementary school district is financially responsible for grades KG-12 or Pre-Kindergarten (PK)–12, there will be no secondary school district represented for that area. In cases, where an elementary school district is financially responsible for only lower grades, there is generally a secondary school district that is financially responsible for providing educational services for the upper grades.

The following are exceptions to the above information:

Pseudo-elementary school districts

In the 2020 layer of the school district shapefiles, Illinois contains pseudo-elementary school districts that represent regular unified school districts in an area where the unified school districts share financial responsibility service with secondary school districts. There are no pseudo-elementary school districts in the 2010 layer. The Census Bureau created pseudo-elementary school districts linked to the unified school district in order to allocate the elementary school aged children to the unified school district. In this area, there was no regular functioning elementary school district serving the area and the secondary school district in this area was not paying tuition to the unified school district (the secondary school districts' financial responsibilities did not extend to kindergarten).

Pseudo-secondary school districts

In the school district shapefiles, the following states contain pseudo-secondary school districts that represent regular unified school districts in areas where the unified school districts share financial responsibility service with elementary school districts:

Figure 20: School Districts: Pseudo- secondary

California	Georgia	Illinois	Kentucky	Massachusetts
Minnesota (2020 only)	Oklahoma (2020 only)	South Carolina	Tennessee	Texas

The Census Bureau created pseudo-secondary school districts linked to real unified school districts in order to allocate the high school aged children to the unified school districts. In these areas, there were no regular functioning secondary school districts serving the area, and the elementary school districts in these areas were not paying tuition to the unified school districts (the elementary school districts' financial responsibilities did not extend to grade 12).

Pseudo-unified school districts

In the 2020 layer of the school district shapefiles, New Jersey contains a pseudo-unified school district that represents a regular unified school district, a regular secondary school district, and a regular elementary school district in an area where the unified, secondary, and elementary school districts share financial responsibility service. There are no pseudo-unified school districts in the 2010 layer. The Census Bureau created a pseudo-unified school district and linked it to the regular unified, secondary, and elementary school districts in order to allocate the elementary and secondary school aged children to the unified, secondary and elementary school districts.

A list of pseudo-elementary, pseudo-secondary, and pseudo-unified school districts and their codes appears in Appendix A. Pseudo school districts are identified in the elementary, secondary, and unified school district tables with an 'A' in the school district type (SDTYP) field.

School District Codes

The school district shapefiles contain 5-character school district codes. The school district codes are the local education agency codes used by the U.S. Department of Education and are unique within a state. The value 99997 is the school district code assigned to water or land where the state does not define an official school district.

School District Names

The names of school districts include their description and no other field (NAMELSAD) is required.

See Appendix P-1 Elementary School District Shapefile Record Layout (2010).

See Appendix P-2 Elementary School District Shapefile Record Layout (2020).

See Appendix P-3 Secondary School District Shapefile Record Layout (2010).

See Appendix P-4 Secondary School District Shapefile Record Layout (2020).

See Appendix P-5 Unified School District Shapefile Record Layout (2010).

See Appendix P-6 Unified School District Shapefile Record Layout (2020).

4.14 States and State Equivalent Entities

State and equivalent entity geography and attributes are available in the following shapefile:

> State and Equivalent Entity State-based Shapefile (2010)

> State and Equivalent Entity State-based Shapefile (2020)

States and equivalent entities are the primary governmental divisions of the United States. In addition to the 50 states, the Census Bureau treats the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) as statistical equivalents of states for the purpose of data presentation. Census regions and divisions consist of groupings of states and equivalent entities. Region and division codes are included in the state shapefiles and users can merge state records to form those areas.

See Appendix Q-1 State and Equivalent Entity Shapefile Record Layout (2010).

See Appendix Q-2 State and Equivalent Entity Shapefile Record Layout (2020).

4.15 State Legislative Districts (SLDs)

SLD geography and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

> State Legislative District Lower Chamber (SLDL) State-based Shapefile (2010)
> State Legislative District Lower Chamber (SLDL) State-based Shapefile (2020)
>
> State Legislative District Upper Chamber (SLDU) State-based Shapefile (2010)
> State Legislative District Upper Chamber (SLDU) State-based Shapefile (2020)

SLDs are the areas in which voters elect a person to represent them in state or equivalent entity legislatures. Most state legislatures consist of upper (senate—SLDU) and lower (house—SLDL) chambers with separate legislative districts. The Census Bureau first reported data for SLDs as part of the 2000 P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File for the states that chose to submit legislative district boundaries.

All 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, participated in Phase 4 of the Census Redistricting Program (part of P.L. 94-171) following the 2010 Census. States provided the Census Bureau with election cycle boundaries, codes, and in some cases names for their SLDs. Starting with the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau updates SLD boundaries every two years.

The 2020 Census Redistricting Data (P.L. 94-71) TIGER/Line Shapefiles contain the 2012 election year SLDs in the 2010 layer and the 2018 election year SLDs in the 2020 layer.

The most recent plans collected by the Census Bureau are the 2018 election year SLDs. The Census Bureau holds the 2018 SLDs until the postcensal state legislative plans for the 2022 state legislatures are collected. Any changes between the 2018 election and the postcensal collection are not reflected in the P.L. 94-171 products.

A unique 3-character census code (SLD code), identified by state participants, is assigned to each SLDU (senate) and SLDL (house) within a state. The SLD code ZZZ is assigned to areas with no SLDs defined (usually large water bodies) and are a single SLD for purposes of data presentation. The following states contain unassigned SLD (code ZZZ) areas:

Figure 21: SLDs with unassigned areas

Connecticut	Illinois	Louisiana	Maine (2012 election year only)
Maryland	Massachusetts	Michigan	Ohio
Puerto Rico			

Other Notes on SLDs

- Nebraska has a unicameral legislature and the District of Columbia has a single council, both of which the Census Bureau treats as upper-chamber legislative areas for the purpose of data presentation. Therefore, there are no data by the lower house of the SLDs for either Nebraska or the District of Columbia.
- Ohio generated their state legislative plans using custom geography from the state's Ohio Common and Unified Redistricting Database produced by Cleveland State University. These shapefiles approximate those plans using Census Bureau geography.
- Maryland and New York adjusted the 2010 Census P.L. 94-171 redistricting data for their respective states by reallocating state prisoner populations to their last known residence. Information on these adjustments is available by visiting each state's website: Maryland <https://planning.maryland.gov/Redistricting/Pages/2010/newLaw.aspx>, New York <http://redistricting.lls.edu/states-NY.php>
- Hawaii adjusted the 2010 Census P.L. 94-171 redistricting data to remove non-resident military personnel and non-resident students. Information on this adjustment is available at: <http://www.hawaiireporter.com/federal-district-court-panel-rules-hawaii-can-exclude-military-students-from-reapportionment-plan-plaintiffs-will-appeal-to-u-s-supreme-court/> <http://redistricting.lls.edu/states-HI.php>
- Kansas adjusted the 2010 Census P.L. 94-171 redistricting data to exclude non-resident students and non-resident military personnel and to include resident students and members of the military at the place of their permanent residence for state legislative redistricting. Information on this adjustment is available at <http://www.kslegresearch.org/KLRD-web/Redistricting.html>
- New Hampshire uses floterial districts in their lower-chamber plan. Floterial districts are overlay districts made up of two or more discrete districts. These discrete or component districts are those represented in the New Hampshire SLDL shapefile. A listing of the floterial districts and their component districts is available as a report (pdf) at: <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/rdo/mapping-files/2012/2012-state-legislative-bef/nh-2012-floterial-list.pdf>

See Appendix R-1 State Legislative District Lower Chamber (SLDL) Shapefile Record Layout (2010).

See Appendix R-2 State Legislative District Lower Chamber (SLDL) Shapefile Record Layout (2020).

See Appendix R-3 State Legislative District Upper Chamber (SLDU) Shapefile Record Layout (2010).

See Appendix R-4 State Legislative District Upper Chamber (SLDU) Shapefile Record Layout (2020).

4.16 Subbarrio (Subminor Civil Division)

Subbarrio (Subminor civil division - sub-MCD) geography and attributes for Puerto Rico are available in the following shapefiles:

Subbarrio (Subminor Civil Division) State-based Shapefile (2010)

Subbarrio (Subminor Civil Division) State-based Shapefile (2020)

Subbarrios, located in Puerto Rico, are legally defined subdivisions of MCDs named barrios-pueblo and barrios. Subbarrios do not exist within every MCD in Puerto Rico nor do they necessarily cover the entire area of an MCD where they do exist. The Puerto Rico Planning Board through the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) provided the boundaries of the subbarrios to the Census Bureau. The subbarrio boundaries are as of January 1, 2020. For more information, please visit: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas.html>

The shapefiles contain the 5-character FIPS codes for subbarrios and an 8-character GNIS code.

See Appendix R-5 Subbarrio (Subminor Civil Division) Shapefile Record Layout (2010).

See Appendix R-6 Subbarrio (Subminor Civil Division) Shapefile Record Layout (2020).

4.17 Topological Faces (Polygons with All Geocodes)

Topological face information is available in the following shapefile:

Topological Faces (Polygons with All Geocodes) County-based Shapefile (Current)

The Topological Faces shapefile contains the attributes of each topological primitive face.

See Appendix S-1 Topological Faces (Polygons with All Geocodes) Shapefile Record Layout (Current).

4.18 Urban Growth Areas

Urban growth area (UGA) geography is available in the following shapefiles:

Urban Growth Areas State-based Shapefile (2010)

Urban Growth Areas State-based Shapefile (2020)

UGAs are legally defined entities in Oregon and Washington that the Census Bureau includes in the MTDB in agreement with the states. UGAs are defined around incorporated places and used to regulate urban growth. UGA boundaries, which need not follow visible features, are delineated cooperatively by state and local officials and then confirmed in state law. Each UGA is identified by a 5-digit numeric census code, usually the same as the 5-digit FIPS code associated with the incorporated place for which the UGA is named.

See Appendix T-1 Urban Growth Areas Shapefile Record Layout (2010).

See Appendix T-2 Urban Growth Areas Shapefile Record Layout (2020).

4.19 Voting District

Voting district geography and attributes are available in the following shapefiles:

> Voting Districts State-based Shapefile (2020)

> Voting Districts County-based Shapefile (2020)

Voting district (VTD) is the generic term for geographic entities (e.g., precincts, wards, and election districts established by state and local governments) for conducting elections. States participating in the redistricting program provided the Census Bureau with boundaries, codes, and names for their VTDs. VTDs do not exist for all states since some states did not participate in the program or chose not to submit boundaries for some of, or their entire, state.

Each VTD has a name and a six-character census code that is unique within the county. The code ZZZZZZ identifies a portion of the county (usually bodies of water) for which no VTDs were identified.

See [Appendix U-1 Voting District State-based Shapefile Record Layout (2020)](#).

See [Appendix U-2 Voting District County-based Shapefile Record Layout (2020)](#).